

10 February 1958

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Dear Sir:

Per our verbal agreement (by telephone) I am submitting a list of subjects that I think should be considered in the Identi-Kit Manual which you have been requested to write. This is, by no means, a list of limitation but more of a general guide to aid you in visualizing our needs.

In preparing this manual, I feel it most imperative that we shun statistical factors and that, as a book of instruction and direction, it should be written in the most simple, uncomplicated form possible. The fewer words, the better. Even these should not include terminology or be subject to "interpretation". Our goal should be such that upon reading and following these simply worded instructions, the kit can only be used one way. I feel that you have adequately covered the principles of use of the information after it has been obtained. Our problem now is how we can best apply the kit to an interrogation. Nothing more. The following list will give you some idea of what I had in mind:

- a. Explain the negative system of identification. (This should include the general characteristics as well as the face for they will be available from the biographies form used in every case.)
- b. Only fingerprints are positive identification due to the psychology of observation. (Call attention to a few common, applicable illustrations of psychological nature).
- c. The kit will only produce a line sketch of a type of features and not a portrait.
- d. Explain the physical operations of the kit to the interrogator.
- e. Techniques the interrogator can apply to subject:
 - (1) Prove kit works by doing himself or a person easily recognizable to subject.
 - (2) Ask subject to answer the questions on the biographies form. This will give the interrogator needed information and force subject to think about the person he will later describe. (Forced recall)

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(3) Explain how subject will use the book of features.

(4) Without experience and training with the kit, subject will change his mind on features. Explain to interrogator how he can help subject by suggesting different (but comparable) features of the same type. Also the juggling of the same features to change emphasis or relative prominence. (i.e., shorten the forehead will sometimes create a humped nose, etc.)

(5) Suggestions on aiding subjects recall without leading questions or the element of suggestion. How to spot a liar by a non-comparable set of features, etc.

As you see by the above list, my thoughts were to take an interrogator through a case; complete with problems. In time I expect to have them all trained in advance. This manual can be used until then and in any emergency which might come up later.

After reading your paper and booklet, I find that you covered the material I had thought to send you and you did it very well indeed. I do not feel any purpose would be served in sending what constitutes a duplication. However, I think a conclusion of accuracy might be assumed by knowing that we reached the same end while working independently. This is heartening in itself.

I will call you on Thursday afternoon, 13 February 1958, at 1330 hours P.S.T., and talk further on this subject. If you are short on any special reference material, please notify me soonest and I will try to find something suitable. I believe we can achieve general and final agreement during that conference. Copies of this letter will be filed for record.

Sincerely,



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